

# Finca Bayano

**Newsletter April 2014**

The dry season is about to end  
Water reservoirs are going to be built  
Terrace cultivation is started  
Our most important tree: Cashew



The dry season 2014 was a really dry one. The young orange and mandarin trees are particularly affected. To irrigate them is a big challenge, because bringing water from the creek to the plants is an enormous effort. For this reason, water reservoirs are going to be built all over Finca Bayano.

Another project, that must be completed before the rainy season begins, is the construction of terraces. As soon as the rain is coming back, the terraces are going to be cultivated.

To be more independent from precipitations, we are going to dig water reservoirs.

The reservoirs can be dug everywhere due to the slight inclination of the land. It takes one strong shower to refill. This will give us the ability to irrigate as long as necessary.



After the hole has been dug, a special plastic foil is put inside. Due to their narrowness, the reservoirs may be covered easily with natural materials. That helps against evaporation and avoids insect breeding. The water reservoirs will be laid out in such a way that the distances to the plants are as small as possible.

There will be inlet and outlet pipes, with valves, to keep the reservoirs closed.

The next newsletter will be about water reservoirs.

As soon as the rainy season starts, we are going to cut the grass.

The sky was very cloudy on this day, however, we will have to wait a few days more until the rainy season will start.







Cashews are the most important trees at Finca Bayano.

This tree has been planted two years ago.

It will bear fruits this year for the first time.

These evergreen providers of shade are even growing quickly in poor soil. They are called marañon in Spanish.



Neither cashew-apples nor cashew-nuts can be found in the markets in Panama.

Once the fruit is ripe, the cashew-apple is very soft, which makes transport and storage almost impossible.

Unlike in other countries, the cashew-nuts are hardly eaten in Panama. This is possibly due to the abundance of food in this country.

There are about 400 cashews growing at Finca Bayano already.

With the beginning of the rainy season we are going to plant another 1,000 trees.



This is how they are being planted:

Two thirds underneath the soil.







Once cashews are ripe the juice may be squeezed out by hand since the cashew apple is extremely soft.

Free running horses come for the ripe fruits, as soon as they have fallen down, or they even pick them from the trees as high as they reach.

The animals pick up the whole fruit to suck out the juice, however, half of the liquid runs out of their mouth. Eventually, they spit out the nut, which is destroyed by their teeth and cannot be used as a seed anymore. In the dry season, horses have no other sources to quench their thirst.



The starfruit, or carambola, is one more fruit that ripens during the the dry season.

I have ordered 1,000 seedlings.



Once fallen from the tree, the fruits are kept in a bucket to post ripen a few days.



Eventually, three or four seeds may be taken out of one fruit.

Furthermore, we are going to plant 1,000 coconut palm-trees.

That number sounds very high, but spread over 75 acres of Finca Bayano, it's only 15 trees per acre. And some of them might not survive.







This part of Finca Bayano is in need of some 'repair'. Fortunately, the substance is still good enough to stop the erosion in this area.

The rocks are being used to build the walls and the red soil will be used to fill the lower layers.

Once the rainy season starts the terraces will be cultivated.



To find out what works better, the upper layers of the terraces are going to be filled with various soils.

This photo shows how we get highly fertile soil from a dry river bed.



We don't have to worry about this part of Finca Bayano. It has recovered extremely well.

No more traces of seven decades cattlebreeding can be seen here.



The king grass, one of our most important fertilizers, grows up to 12 feet.

Papayas are growing very well where the soil is loose and where there is enough water.







This is one of the parts of Finca Bayano which stays green even in the dry season. It's very close to the creek.

This is our biggest mango-tree. It's about eight feet high and we hope it will bear the first fruits next year.



And this is how the pineapples grow in 2014. Almost every plant is bearing a fruit.

This is how we  
started two years ago.



Eventually,  
they have to be eaten.

**'Marlon's Mix'** is made of  
pineapples and bananas  
and it's only available at:

# Finca Bayano

